

## CLAIMS

1. A method of operating a tank ventilation device including a fuel tank of an internal combustion engine and a storage which receives a fuel dispersed from the fuel tank, comprising the steps of connecting the storage through a ventilation conduit with the fuel tank, through a suction conduit with the internal combustion engine, and through an aeration conduit provided with a flow element with an atmosphere; supplying through the storage in a rinsing phase a fresh air which is aspirated via the aerating device, takes fuel and supplies a rinsing volume flow through the suction conduit to the internal combustion engine; and regulating a fuel concentration in the rinsing volume flow by the flow element provided in the aeration conduit.

2. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising computing the fuel concentration of the rinsing volume flow from at least one variable of a motor control.

3. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising controlling the flow element at high fuel concentrations of the fuel volume flow in a more open fashion.

4. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising controlling the flow element at low fuel concentrations of the rinsing volume flow in a more closed fashion.

5. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising forming the flow element as a throttleable regulating valve.

6. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising forming the flow element as a check valve which is controlled in a cycled manner.

7. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising electrically controlling the flow element.

8. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising opening the flow element in a currentless manner.

9. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising monitoring a pressure in the tank ventilation device by a pressure sensor.

10. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising closing a tank ventilation valve during a trust operation.